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British steamship *Marstonmoor*, bound in ballast for Pensacola, Fla. January 7, to the steamship *Tartar Prince*, of the Prince Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 8 cabin and 489 steerage passengers and 100 pieces of large and 588 pieces of small baggage. January 8, to the Italian steamship *Sicilia*, bound with cargo for New Orleans, La. British steamship *Larne*, bound in ballast for Baltimore, Md.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

Consulting board of foreign physicians appointed at Yokohama on account of plague.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, December 28, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I was, a few days ago, approached by the Japanese authorities who requested me to recommend, from the foreign physicians of Yokohama, and including myself, a board or committee to act in a consultant and advisory capacity with the emergency health board of Japanese medical men recently organized as an additional precaution in the fight against the plague.

I consented to do so on the understanding that the physicians recommended, if already in the service of their own Government, should receive no compensation; and nominated Dr. E. Wheeler, British consular physician; Dr. P. Koch, staff surgeon, Imperial German Navy, in charge of German Naval Hospital here, and as a convenient and skilled intermediary and interpreter, Dr. K. Rokkaku, sanitary inspector for Hawaii, a man recognized and respected by the foreign and native profession alike.

This selection should prove a strong one if the organization is allowed any opportunity for work.

All the gentlemen nominated have accepted and we are now in consultation with the Japanese officials, going over various questions connected with the campaign against the pest.

I am quite sufficiently occupied already, but, under the circumstances, I think that you will agree that I could scarcely refuse the courteous and complimentary request of the Government, a request that, in view of their recent determination and efforts to do without the assistance of foreign experts, is a decided concession on the part of the authorities.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
Sanitary Inspector, Yokohama.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Yokohama—Plague deaths.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, December 29, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the summarized official returns give a total of fatal cases of plague, from the apparent beginning of the present outbreak, November 5 to November 21, as follows: Hiogo Ken, 20; Osaka Fu, 12; Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Wakayama, and Shidzuoka kens 1 each, 37 in all, and, as every clearly diagnosed case

seems to prove mortal, this number may be taken as probably representing the entire occurrence of the disease.

Many of the local governments have made special, and in some cases repeated, appropriations to assist the efforts of the central sanitary authorities, as follows: Osaka, 55.900 yen; Hiogo, 18.000 yen; Aichi, 7.400 yen; Wakayama, 5.500 yen; Okayama, 9.300 yen; Kochi, 2.900 yen; Hiroshima, 3.300 yen; Fukuoka, 4.600 yen; Yamagata, 2.300 yen; Kagawa, 2.400 yen; Yamaguchi, 2.400 yen; Tokushima, 2.000 yen; Nagasaki, 2.000 yen; Shidzuoka, 1.900 yen; Miye, 1.600 yen; Chiba, 1.300 yen; Miyagi, .900 yen; Awomori, .800 yen; Nagano, .700 yen; Kagoshima, .600 yen; and Tottori, .400 yen; in all, 126.200 yen.

Since the 21st instant, cases have been reported as follows: At Osaka, night of 21st, 1; Kobe, 22d, 2; Osaka, 23d, 1; Kobe, 23d, 1; Osaka, 24th, 1; Osaka, 25th, 2; Osaka, 26th, 3; or a total since outbreak of 48 cases.

The weather has, during the greater part of the present month, been unusually cold for the season, and it is probably owing to this that the epidemic is spreading so slowly.

Dr. Fowler, the newly appointed medical officer of the U. S. M. H. S. at Kobe, notifies me that he has effected arrangements for the isolation of emigrants during quarantine, and that he is using for the purification of their clothing and effects a steam disinfecting apparatus originally erected for the handling of rags.

In view, however, of the extreme difficulty of enforcing effectual isolation without a staff under the pay and direct and complete control of your officers here, I must urge the greatest caution at ports of arrival in the United States, even in the case of passengers who have nominally complied with the regulations as to anteembarkation quarantine and disinfection.

Respectfully,
 Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector.
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
 U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

PORTO RICO.

Reports from Ponce.

PONCE, PORTO RICO, January 2, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the weekly quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended December 30. Also mortality report for the two weeks ended on the same date, and a consolidated statement of the work done at this station during the month of December.

The health of Ponce, according to the reports of the month, still show a large number of diseases of the gastro-intestinal type, and the mortality has been higher than last month's. I am informed that most of these cases happen amongst the lower classes, and may be attributed to the bad sanitary conditions in which they live. The infectious diseases, however, show no increase.

There is nothing of interest to report concerning the shipping.

Respectfully,
 P. MALARET,
 Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
 In Temporary Charge.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
 U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.